

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**Title:** Schools At-Risk of Being Labeled Persistently Dangerous**Type of Executive Summary:**☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Action on First Reading ☐ Discussion ☐ Information**Policy Implications:**

- ☐ Constitution _____
- ☐ General Statute # _____
- ☒ SBE Policy HRS-A-006
- ☐ SBE Policy Amendment
- ☐ SBE Policy (New)
- ☐ APA # _____
- ☐ APA Amendment
- ☐ APA (New)
- ☒ Other No Child Left Behind

Presenter(s): Dr. Rebecca Garland (Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support) and Mrs. Charlotte Hughes (Director, Federal Programs and Support Division)

Description:

According to State Board of Education policy, a “persistently dangerous school” is a public elementary, middle or secondary school or a charter school in which a total of five or more violent criminal offenses were committed per 1000 students (0.5 or more per 100 students) during each of the two most recent school years and in which the conditions that contributed to the commission of those offenses are likely to continue into another school year. Two alternative schools, Griffith Academy (now Main Street Academy) in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools and Turning Point Academy in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, were reported to have in excess of 0.5 or more violent criminal offenses per 100 students during each of the two most recent school years. Two Special Education schools, Longview School in Wake County Public Schools and Metro School in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, are currently on probationary status and were reported to have in excess of 0.5 or more violent criminal offenses per 100 students last year.

Resources:

Department of Public Instruction, Local Education Agencies (LEA)

Input Process:

Discipline data from LEAs, year-end data verification process

Stakeholders:

Students, teachers, staff, parents, community, and law enforcement agencies

Timeline For Action:

This item is presented for Action on First Reading.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the two alternative schools be placed on probationary status and the two Special Education schools maintain their probationary status. The schools will be monitored by the Federal Program and Support Division for the 2011-12 school year.

Audiovisual equipment requested for the presentation:

- ☐ Data Projector/Video (Videotape/DVD and/or Computer Data, Internet, Presentations-PowerPoint preferred)

Specify: _____

- ☐ Audio Requirements (computer or other, except for PA system which is provided)
Specify: _____
- ☐ Document Camera (for transparencies or paper documents – white paper preferred)

Motion By: _____ Seconded By: _____
Vote: Yes _____ No _____ Abstain _____
Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Postponed _____ Revised _____

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NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Policy Manual

Policy Identification

Priority: Healthy Students in Safe, Orderly & Caring Schools

Category: Safe Schools Program Guidelines

Policy ID Number: HRS-A-006

Policy Title: Policy defining persistently dangerous schools

Current Policy Date: 06/06/2002

Other Historical Information:

Statutory Reference: 20 USCS 7912 (2002)

Administrative Procedures Act (APA) Reference Number and Category:

(This policy addresses Certification of Compliance with Unsafe School Choice Option Requirements as required in the *Consolidated Plan for No Child Left Behind*.)

1. The following definitions apply to this policy.
 - a. Violent criminal offenses are the following crimes as reported in the *"Report on School Crime and Violence"*:
 - Homicide
 - Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury
 - Assault Involving Use of a Weapon
 - Rape
 - Sexual Offense
 - Sexual Assault
 - Kidnapping
 - Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon
 - Robbery
 - Taking Indecent Liberties with a Minor
 - b. A persistently dangerous school is a public elementary, middle or secondary school or a charter school in which a total of five or more violent criminal offenses were committed per 1000 students (0.5 or more per 100 students) during each of the two most recent school years and in which the conditions that contributed to the commission of those offenses are likely to continue into another school year.
2. Along with the annual Report on School Crime and Violence, the Superintendent for each LEA shall write and inform the State Board of Education of:
 - a. All the public schools within that LEA that have reported a total of five or more violent criminal offenses were committed per 1000 students (0.5 or more per 100 students) during the most recent school year; and
 - b. All the public schools within that LEA that have reported a total of five or more violent criminal offenses were committed per 1000 students (0.5 or more per 100 students) during each of the two most recent school years.

3. No later than June 30 of any year, the chairman of the board of directors of the nonprofit corporation that holds the charter for a charter school shall notify the State Board of Education:
 - a. Whether five or more violent criminal offenses were committed per 1000 students (0.5 or more per 100 students) in a charter school during the most recent school year; and
 - b. Whether five or more violent criminal offenses were committed per 1000 students (0.5 or more per 100 students) in a charter school during each of the two most recent school years.
4. Whenever the State Board of Education has information that five or more violent criminal offenses were committed per 1000 students (0.5 or more per 100 students) in a public elementary, middle or secondary school or a charter school during each of the two most recent school years, the State Board of Education shall provide the local board of education or the nonprofit corporation that holds the charter for the school the opportunity to report on conditions in the school and any plans it may have to eliminate the conditions that contributed to the commission of the violent criminal offenses.
5. After consideration of that report and consultation with a representative sample of local educational agencies or charter schools, the State Board of Education shall determine whether the school is a persistently dangerous school, whether the school should be placed on probation, or whether no additional interventions are necessary to protect students from violent crimes.
6. During the probationary year, the school shall implement additional strategies to protect students from violent criminal offenses and incorporate them into the Safe Schools Plan.
7. If at any time during the probationary year, the State Board of Education determines that conditions that contributed to the commission of the violent criminal offenses in the school have not been eliminated, then the State Board of Education may determine that the school is a persistently dangerous school.
8. Once the State Board has determined that a school is a persistently dangerous school, the school shall retain that designation for at least one full school year.
9. Students assigned to a school which the State Board of Education has determined to be persistently dangerous shall be allowed to attend another school in the LEA which is not designated a persistently dangerous school, provided there is such a school in the LEA which offers instruction at the student's grade level.
10. Any student who is the victim of a violent criminal offense committed against him or her while he or she was in or on the grounds of a public elementary, middle or secondary school or charter school that he or she attends shall be allowed to attend another school in the LEA, provided there is such a school in the LEA which offers instruction at the student's grade level and provided the student's choice shall not be limited to persistently dangerous schools.
11. Local school systems shall establish a process for assuring any student who has the right to transfer from a school under this policy is allowed to transfer to a school in the LEA which is not persistently dangerous. The process must be included in the system's Safe School Plan.
12. The LEA shall report each student transfer effected pursuant to this policy to the State Board of Education in its "Report on School Crime and Violence."
13. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to grant any student the right to attend a charter school, grant any student a preference in admission to a charter school or limit a student's right to transfer from a charter school.

Schools at Risk of Being Labeled Persistently Dangerous

On-Site Visit Process

- Schedule visit with the principal.
- Tour campus and observe physical layout, including camera locations and monitoring practices.
- Review policies for controlling campus access and check access points.
- Observe student transitions as they enter and exit the school.
- Observe students during class and lunch transitions.
- Interview the principal, staff, and students.
- Observe classroom instruction and bathroom breaks.
- Use *Schools at Risk of Being Identified as Persistently Dangerous* site visit form to document findings.
- Review-
 - Disciplinary data for current and past school year
 - School profile
 - Black Box contents and Crisis Management Plan
 - School Improvement Plan
 - Staff and student/parent handbooks
 - Violence and intervention strategies and programs
- Offer written and verbal feedback to the principal on what was observed and make recommendations for improving the portfolio.

**Metro School
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
School Profile**

Background Information

- Metro School serves Charlotte-Mecklenburg students in grades K-12 who are significantly cognitively disabled and who have been determined by their Individual Education Program (IEP) team to need the restrictiveness of a public separate school placement. Many students have severe medical and physical needs and have other multiple disabilities such as visual impairments, hearing impairments, and autism in addition to their cognitive challenges.
- The campus is located in downtown Charlotte adjacent to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools central office and within walking distance of commuter train stations, Charlotte Convention Center, and Central Piedmont Community College.
- **2010-2011 Persistently Dangerous Discipline Data**
2 Sexual Assaults (SA)
1 Sexual Offense (SO)
Final ADM = 214
- **2009-2010 Persistently Dangerous Discipline Data**
10 Assaults Resulting in Serious Injury (AR)
1 Assault (SA)
Final ADM = 228

Findings

- Every classroom has its own bathroom and is 100% supervised.
- Students are supervised from point to point.
- Teacher noted that new method of grouping students seems to have improved safety.
- Staff meetings are used to debrief safety procedures.
- Every staff person is trained in Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI).
- Cameras are monitored by security guards.
- Teachers are versed in safety procedures.
- The school is well maintained for an apparent safe and orderly environment.
- Additional Behavior Modification Technicians (BMTs) added in 2010-11.
- CMS conducts monthly safety audits

Summary

Metro School is an inviting school with a wealth of amenities to support student learning. The administration at Metro adheres to safety procedures and ensures that the staff and students are safe at the school. Metro provided the necessary documentation to support that all efforts to ensure a safe environment for all students and staff are monitored daily.

**Schools At-risk of Being Identified as Persistently Dangerous
Site Visit, March 9, 2011**

School Name: Metro School **Principal Name:** Denise Comeaux
Physical Address: 405 S. Davidson Street **Phone Number:** (980) 343-5450
Charlotte

Review of Critical Incident Response Kit (CIRK)	
x	<input type="radio"/> Updated student enrollment
x	<input type="radio"/> Current building plans
x	<input type="radio"/> First responder information
x	<input type="radio"/> Command point
x	<input type="radio"/> Remote safety shelter for students and staff
Notes:	
Observations	
x	<input type="radio"/> Visibility of staff in hallways during class changes
x	<input type="radio"/> Student movement during class changes. Students are escorted by teachers.
x	<input type="radio"/> Location of security devices (e.g. cameras, metal detectors, etc.) 56 cameras. Live monitoring.
x	<input type="radio"/> School culture for safety (e.g. visibility and location of posters, school safety procedures, safety flip charts in classrooms, etc.)
x	<input type="radio"/> Lunch time/procedures
Notes:	
Interviews	
x	Students/staff: Do you feel safe? Why/Why not? Note: If time permits, it is better to interview teachers individually. Interviewed staff felt safe both in school and in parking lot. One teacher noted that new ways of grouping students in classes have improved safety. Students were not interviewed.
x	Principal: What are the school's plans for correcting the disciplinary issues that resulted in the school being placed on the Watch List? Plan documented in extensive report. All staff now have CPI training. New cameras have been installed. Security guard monitors cameras and does foot patrol. Additional Behavior Modification Technicians. CMS conducts monthly safety audits.
Notes:	
Other Indicators	
x	<input type="radio"/> Indication of safety signage Posters to remind students of rules.
x	<input type="radio"/> Handbook (policies & procedures)
x	<input type="radio"/> Transportation-drop-off/pickup
x	<input type="radio"/> Chemicals/cleaning materials locked
x	<input type="radio"/> Building access Doors locked to outside except front door.
x	<input type="radio"/> Disciplinary/referral procedures
x	<input type="radio"/> SROs/SRO: Instead of SRO, uses security guard. CMS police are stationed nearby and respond quickly to incidents.
x	<input type="radio"/> School Improvement Plan
	<input type="radio"/> School Safety Plan
	<input type="radio"/> Professional Development
	<input type="radio"/> Parent Involvement
x	Notes: Serious assaults have been reduced from 11 last year to 2 this year.
Summary Statements	
x	Other Comments: School is actively addressing safety issues.

**Longview School
Wake County Schools
School Profile**

Background Information

- Longview School serves Wake County students in grades 6 through 12 who have been identified as in need of Special Education services and whose academic and behavioral needs require intensive and intrusive intervention. Students are placed at Longview as the result of an IEP team decision.
- The campus is located in east Raleigh near St. Augustine College and about a mile from Wake Medical Center.
- **2010-2011 Persistently Dangerous Discipline Data**
1 Assault with a Weapon (AW)
Final ADM = 107
- **2009-2010 Persistently Dangerous Discipline Data**
1 Assault with a Weapon (AW)
Final ADM = 98

Findings

- Staff meetings include safety procedures; staff and students feel safe.
- Small classes (5-6 students) with a teacher and a Teacher Assistant (TA).
- All staff supervises hallways during class changes.
- Staff supervises loading/unloading areas and cafeteria.
- Students are escorted individually to bathroom.
- Security cameras are in place.
- Crisis Team member deployed to defuse volatile behavioral situations.
- All staff trained in Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI).
- School Resource Officer (SRO) is shared with Phillips School, but spends most time at Longview.

Summary

Longview has safety procedures in place to support efforts to ensure a safe environment for staff and students. The school focuses on supervision of students to minimize disruptive behavior. The Crisis Team is used to deflect potential volatile situations.

**Schools At-risk of Being Identified as Persistently Dangerous
Site Visit 1/26/2011**

School Name: Longview Principal Name: Pamela Jerro
Physical Address: 318 King Charles Rd. Phone Number: 856-7691

Review of Critical Incident Response Kit (CIRK)	
x	o Updated student enrollment
x	o Current building plans
x	o First responder information
x	o Command point
x	o Remote safety shelter for students and staff
	Notes: Up to date and in good order.
Observations	
x	o Visibility of staff in hallways during class changes
x	o Student movement during class changes
x	o Location of security devices (e.g. cameras, metal detectors, etc.)
x	o School culture for safety: Well organized processes for handling disruptive students: dress code, use of radios, crisis team, crisis room, ISS room, SRO or police available, "Code Orange" developed to isolate disruptive student from other students.
x	o Lunch time/procedures
	Notes: Teachers interact with students during lunch. Monthly fire drills. A broom and a metal dust pan with handle were found unsecured. One fire extinguisher out of date, one missing. Students sometimes take out their frustrations on fire extinguisher holders.
Interviews	
x	Students/staff: Do you feel safe? Why/Why not?
	Students: Both feel very safe at school. Both feel that they have an adult that they could go to if they need to talk. Both feel safe on their bus and said there was no bullying. Teachers: Both feel very safe, feel that students help protect staff. Staff has a good understanding of students' backgrounds, and that helps with both discipline and academics. Staff works well together, administration works well together, crisis response time very fast if needed.
x	Principal: What are the school's plans for correcting the disciplinary issues that resulted in the school being placed on the Watch List? After the incident, the offending student (possession of a homemade weapon) was subject to random searches until he was placed into another restricted facility.
	Notes:
Other Indicators	
x	o Indication of safety signage
x	o Handbook (policies & procedures)
x	o Transportation-drop-off/pickup: Separate drop-off areas for buses and cabs
	o Chemicals/cleaning materials locked
x	o Building access: Doors locked to outside; egress through doors monitored electronically by office personnel; good front door visibility to office, thorough visitor check-in procedure
x	o Disciplinary/referral procedures
x	o SROs/SRO
x	o School Improvement Plan
x	o School Safety Plan
x	o Professional Development: All staff receive CPI training
x	o Parent Involvement
	Notes: All doors to classrooms locked; bathrooms locked, students use the bathroom one at a time
Summary Statements	
	Areas Needing Improvement/Technical Assistance: Suggest investigating better protection of extinguishers. Check best practices at residential facilities?
	Other Comments: Staff very professional, have good relationships with students.

**Griffith Academy (now Main Street Academy)
Winston-Salem/Forsyth Schools
School Profile**

Background Information

- Main Street Academy serves Winston-Salem/Forsyth students in grades 6 through 12 who have been identified as at-risk and whose academic and behavioral needs can best be served in a smaller, more structured environment. The goal is to remediate academic and behavioral problems, allowing the student to then return to the home school.
- The campus has relocated from Clemmons Road to 2700 South Main Street in Winston-Salem.
- **2010-2011 Persistently Dangerous Discipline Data**
2 Assaults with a Weapon (AW)
Final ADM = 133
- **2009-2010 Persistently Dangerous Discipline Data**
2 Assaults Resulting in a Serious Injury (AR)
2 Robberies Without a Weapon (RO)
Final ADM = 121

Findings

- Staff and students report feeling safe.
- Staff trained in verbal de-escalation techniques
- Staff and SRO react quickly to incidents.
- All staff supervises hallways during class changes.
- Staff supervises loading/unloading areas and cafeteria.
- High school students enter school through metal detectors.
- New school location will have cameras
- All external doors except front doors are kept locked.

Summary

Griffith (now Main Street) Academy has safety procedures in place to support efforts to ensure a safe environment for staff and students. The school focuses on supervision of students to minimize disruptive behavior.

**Schools At-risk of Being Identified as Persistently Dangerous
Site Visit, April 27, 2011**

School Name: Griffith Academy **Principal Name:** William Wynn
Physical Address: 1401 Clemmonsville Road **Phone Number:** (336) 771-4580
Winston-Salem

Review of Critical Incident Response Kit (CIRK)	
X	o Updated student enrollment: Need to keep student information up to date.
X	o Current building plans
X	o First responder information
X	o Command point
X	o Remote safety shelter for students and staff
Notes:	
Observations	
X	o Visibility of staff in hallways during class changes
X	o Student movement during class changes
X	o Location of security devices (e.g. cameras, metal detectors, etc.) No cameras. HS students searched using metal detectors. Staff uses wands for MS students.
X	o School culture for safety (e.g. visibility and location of posters, school safety procedures, safety flip charts in classrooms, etc.)
X	o Lunch time/procedures
Notes:	
Interviews	
X	Students/staff: Do you feel safe? Why/Why not? Students said they felt safe and said that teachers stop arguments from escalating into fights. They also noted that the random searches prevent students from bringing drugs and weapons to school. Teachers also said they felt safe, cited the locked exterior doors as a reason, and noted that the administration and SRO were constantly present and react quickly to situations.
X	Principal: What are the school's plans for correcting the disciplinary issues that resulted in the school being placed on the Watch List? Robbery that occurred last year took place in a stairwell area. Next year, school will move to a new location that will have cameras. Administration will make presence of cameras well known to students.
Other Indicators	
X	o Indication of safety signage
X	o Handbook (policies & procedures)
X	o Transportation-drop-off/pickup
X	o Chemicals/cleaning materials locked
X	o Building access: All external doors except front doors are kept locked.
X	o Disciplinary/referral procedures
X	o SROs/SRO Full-time SRO
X	o School Improvement Plan
X	o School Safety Plan
X	o Professional Development
X	o Parent Involvement

**Turning Point Academy
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
School Profile**

Background Information

- Turning Point Academy is an alternative school serving Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools students who have been identified as at-risk and whose academic and behavioral needs can best be served in a smaller, more structured environment.
- The campus is located at 2300 West Sugar Creek Road in Charlotte.
- **2010-2011 Persistently Dangerous Discipline Data**
2 Assaults with a Weapon (AW)
Final ADM = 352
- **2009-2010 Persistently Dangerous Discipline Data**
1 Assault Resulting in a Serious Injury (AR)
1 Robbery Without a Weapon (RO)
Final ADM = 375

Findings

- Staff and students report feeling safe.
- Staff trained in verbal de-escalation techniques
- Staff and SRO react quickly to incidents.
- Staff includes 5 security associates and 5 Behavior Modification Technicians (BMTs)
- All staff supervises hallways during class changes.
- Staff supervises loading/unloading areas and cafeteria.
- All students enter school through metal detectors.
- 32 cameras, can be monitored by principal or security guard
- All external doors except front doors are kept locked.
- Incentive reward system helps to improve behavior and climate.

Summary

Turning Point Academy has safety procedures in place to support efforts to ensure a safe environment for staff and students.

Schools At-risk of Being Identified as Persistently Dangerous Site Visit, March 10, 2011

School Name: Turning Point Academy Principal Name: Valoria Burch
Physical Address: 2300 W. Sugar Creek Phone Number: (980) 343-5231
Charlotte

Review of Critical Incident Response Kit (CIRK)	
X	o Updated student enrollment
X	o Current building plans: Add small version of building layout to box.
X	o First responder information
X	o Command point
X	o Remote safety shelter for students and staff
Observations	
X	o Visibility of staff in hallways during class changes: All teachers monitor students leaving and entering classroom at class changes.
X	o Student movement during class changes: Relaxed, orderly.
X	o Location of security devices (e.g. cameras, metal detectors, etc.) 32 cameras which can be monitored by principal and security guard at two separate monitoring stations. Middle school students and high school students go to separate rooms to pass through metal detector each morning. Students leave their coats and jackets in those rooms during the day.
X	o School culture for safety (e.g. visibility and location of posters, school safety procedures, safety flip charts in classrooms, etc.)
	o Lunch time/procedures: Not observed.
	Notes:
Interviews	
X	Students/staff: Do you feel safe? Why/Why not? Note: If time permits, it is better to interview teachers individually. Students said they felt safe and indicated that teachers kept behavior under control. Students said bullying was not a problem. Teachers said they felt safe and cited their professional development on controlling student behavior, the presence of the SRO, security guards and BMTs, and the use of the metal detectors.
	Notes:
X	Principal: What are the school's plans for correcting the disciplinary issues that resulted in the school being placed on the Watch List? Pens no longer allowed to be brought from home.
	Notes: Only one dangerous incident this year, however two students were involved.
Other Indicators	
X	o Indication of safety signage Bus Expectations posters in halls, Positive Behavioral Intervention Support (PBIS) posters in classrooms.
X	o Handbook (policies & procedures) CMS Student Handbook
X	o Transportation-drop-off/pickup
X	o Chemicals/cleaning materials locked
X	o Building access: All outside doors are locked. Visitors must ring bell to be admitted.
X	o Disciplinary/referral procedures
X	o SROs: 1 full-time SRO, 5 security associates, 5 BMTs
X	o School Improvement Plan
	o School Safety Plan
	o Professional Development
	o Parent Involvement
	Notes:
Summary Statements	
X	Other Comments: Administration is actively working to improve school safety.